

Berwick Rangers Supporters Trust

(also known as Berwick Rangers Supporters Society Limited)

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MINUTES

Meeting of the Society Board

Date: 26/1/11

Time: 19:00

Place The Pilot Inn

PRESENT

Colin Pike (Chair), David Spence, Gordon Dickson, Karen Thorburn, Eric Deighton, David Cook, Keith Hall, John Bell, Steven Scott, Gemma Law, Youth Section members Dale Jones, James Thompson and Gregor Thomson. Also present were Reserves representatives Bill Berry and Alistair Davie, also Trust member Michael Smyth

Visiting representatives from the Reserves Team were present at the beginning of the meeting to inform the Board of what is happening in the BRFC Reserves.

Bill spoke of his efforts to achieve players who can progress to first team, particularly local players.

They are putting in place a structure, i.e. a Board to run the Club. So far they have been self financed.

Paul has a Grade 4 coaching license.

Affiliation with SFC under 19's is the way they want to go.

Next season they hope to keep the under 17s together, with an aim to move them up to under 19s.

Training with first team at Preston Lodge.

They do not ask for financial support from the Trust, as would like to continue to self finance.

Colin will continue to help with programmes, press etc and will contact Radio Borders to enable a representative from Reserves to go on the sports show and talk about BRFC Reserves set-up. Hope is to have representation at Club level eventually.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Callie Denholm, Ronald Kirk, Bill Purvis, and Derek Purvis.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SOCIETY BOARD HELD ON 03/11/10, DECISION:

After correction on minute 7, that it is Colin that sends out e-newsletter, the minutes were accepted as a correct record, proposed by David Cook, seconded by Gemma Law.

2. MATTERS ARISING

A1 signage – no update on this, it was felt not to be high priority at the moment, though it would be dealt with by David Cook as time allowed.
Youth Section Season Ticket – has not been produced yet, will be at half rate to end of year.

3. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES REPORT

Bill e-mailed a report with his apologies.

There was four new members in December, and three in January, only 2 of these 7 were under the 1+1 campaign. Total membership stands at 226. Most Board members have not signed a new member up under the 1+1 scheme.

Discussion followed on raising the Trusts profile to encourage membership. Should try to get time on the Radio Newcastle sports programme.

Colin Pike will get airtime for the Reserves on Radio Borders.

It was decided that for every new member signed up in March, £10 would be given to the Reserves. This would be advertised in the Berwick Advertiser.

4. TREASURERS REPORT

Balance in bank is £2,996.75.

Bills that have been paid include Fantasy Prints and Grieves West and Ayre, the Reserves programmes and Shiel and Morrison.

£2,500 has been paid to the Club so far as part of our £5,000 commitment.

Thanks have to go to Walter Dytor who has kindly sponsored the Youth Section five a side competition.

An independent examiner is to be found to cut costs of auditing accounts.

5. FUTURE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CLUB

It was suggested that instead of giving the Club an agreed sum of money we should budget to build up a reserve of money. When sufficient funds were available three projects could be identified to make improvements at the Club. These 3 ideas would be put in front of the Trust membership who would decide which one project funds would be spent on. This is also the last item on the Strategy workstream formed from the survey.

It was decided to continue paying towards this year's commitment and revisit this in the future. However it highlighted once again the need for a dialogue between the three parties.

6. SUPPORTERS CLUB REPORT

Derek was not available and had not forwarded a report.

7. YOUTH SECTION REPORT

YS now have 18 members. The committee are still trying to source membership cards, which has been difficult as the quotes have been very expensive.

The five-a-side competition will start as soon as there are enough members to run it (20)

A survey is going out at the end of the week to sixth formers.

Work is ongoing to set up filming of matches, John Bell offered for the YS to come to Youth Project, who could help with this.

The Youth Section would like to have their own area on the website to post their news and information. Colin will take this forward to obtain 'write access'

It was proposed also to have a player attend for a photo opportunity to formally thank Walter Dytor for his sponsorship of the five-a-side comp.

Most work the YS are doing is counting towards sixth form studies.

8. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

COMMUNICATIONS: There have been two e-newsletters since the last meeting. A press release is to be published, highlighting the 50k of donations so far to the club.

EVENTS: Dave Spence sent an e-mail out to all, with a list of programmed events. The next of these events is a spring Disco, on the 19th March at the B&G. It is hoped that Gary Dunn can DJ this.

STRATEGY: The tripartite meeting is still outstanding; Colin will contact participants to arrange.

9. CLUB REPORT

There is £70,000 of funding available to support clubs with youth football.

Irn Bru are doing a promotion whereby blue bottle tops from their products can be put in dump bins at the club and exchanged for football products. This promotion starts on 2nd February until the end of the season, and cardboard collecting bins will be given to the club.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) David Cook proposed that we thank Derek for the work he has done and ask him to stand down from the committee. A new representative from the Supporters Club would be invited to join the committee.
- ii) Karen is to speak to Ian Beresford with a view to having the website updated. The committee pages have old photographs and out dated profiles, plus some of the new committee are not listed.
- iii) Eric Deighton announced his decision to retire from the Board. He would like to see that the survey findings continue to be acted upon and that the survey doesn't 'gather dust'. Colin Pike thanked Eric on behalf of the committee for the valuable work he has done. A new committee member would be needed and one who could commit to

work. The possibility was mentioned of the Board devising a 'contract' for Board members.

- iv) Gordon has started to scan documents in order to archive every document the Trust has produced. When this is done himself, Colin and Bill will hold an archive so that any documentation that is need in the future can be obtained easily.
- v) Colin brought to the committee a questionnaire seeking views on SFL proposals to restructure leagues. Board members were asked to give their views by the 30th January, so that he could relay them back to Supporters Direct.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Saturday 5th March at 11.30 am in the Pilot Inn.